(b) if so, what are the suggested ingredients of such a policy; and

(c) what action Government have taken to finalise the suggested policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Research Policy is a component of the Draft National Agricultural Policy Resolution (1993) which has identified agricultural research as one of the critical instruments for tackling the challenges facing Indian agriculture.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Views of Karnataka State Farmers' Association on BIO Wealth

3329. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka State Farmers' Association has urged the Central Government to declare the country's bio wealth as national property ;

(b) whether the farmers of the country have not ratified the Dunkel proposals or the GATT treaty ;

(c) whether there is no need to amend the Seed Act/rules ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on the views of the Karnataka State Farmer's Association ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Central Government has not received any representation from the Karnataka State Farmers Association to declare the country's biowealth as national property.

(b) There is no such requirement.

(c) A separate legislation on plan varieties is to be enacted ; there is currently no proposal to effect any amendment to the Seed Act.

(d) Does not arise.

Service Benefits in Indian Council of Agricultural Research

3330. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have taken a decision for granting three advance increments and corresponding benefits in service to only those candidates who possess Ph.D Degrees on or before the 28th May, 1990 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the scientists of ARS 1986 batch who completed their Ph. D. Degree after 28th May, 1990 are also getting these benefits ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to consider the case of those scientists who joined the Agricultural Research Service in 1992 or so, for advance increments and other corresponding benefits. if so, from when and if not, the reasons for the discriminations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) In the case of the Agricultural Research Service 1990 examination, the cut-off date of 28th May. 1990 has been fixed for eligibility for 3 advance increments to candidates who possess Ph. D. Degree. The cut-off date of 28th May, 1990 is not applicable for other service benefits.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The system of cut-off dates has started from the 1990 Exam i.e. the first Exam after the ICAR adopted the U.G.C. system in 1989. As such the candidates of ARS 1986 examination were not affected by any cut-off date and all Scientists of ARS 1986 who had Ph. D./M. Phil were given 3/1 advance increments. even if the candidate got the Ph. D./M. Phil after 28-5-90. For ARS batch, since there was a cut-off date 28-5-90, a candidate obtaining Ph D after 28-5-90 was not given the ad-